(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether it is a fact that the C.I.I, has suggested that it is ready to take steps to impart education and training to the backward and the deprived people and to make improvement in their skills; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) The confederation of Indian Industry (CM) has not stated that it is infavour of legal provision for reservation in private sector. However, the Cll is ready to undertake affirmative action in the form of scholarships and training. In May 2005, 21 captains of industry of the private sector had issued a statement wherein they have committed to expand their activites for disadvantaged persons with regard to scholarships, company-run private schools, partnership with Government school, vocational training in-house as well as in partnership with ITIs, vender development programmes etc.

Schemes for welfare of disabled persons

3151. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any new schemes this year for the welfare of disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) No new Plan scheme has been introduced so far during this year. However, major initiatives under the existing schemes are:

(1) Pilot Project for awareness generation for early detection and intervention to minimize disability since birth and during early childhood; and

(2) Making important public buildings and important educational institutions barrier free and accessible to persons with disabilities.